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China-General EB

United States Department of State

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Date: 1 MAY 96

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TO: The Secretary

THROUGH: P - Mr. Tarnoff

FROM: EAP - Winston Lord

SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister
Liu Huaqiu
Friday, November 5, 3:00-3:30 p.m.,
Your Office

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I. OBJECTIVES

1. Stress the need for Chinese progress soon in human rights, nonproliferation, and trade.

2. Make clear upcoming bilaterals in Seattle provide an excellent opportunity to show significant positive movement in U.S.-China relations.

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II. APPROACH

Beginning with your September 30 meeting with Vice Premier Qian Qichen in New York, we have implemented our policy of high-level engagement with China. Agriculture Secretary Espy, Deputy USTR Barshefsky, Assistant Secretary Shattuck, and DOD Assistant Secretary Freeman have all made useful trips to China. The Chinese have welcomed this renewed high-level dialogue, and VFM Liu's visit to Washington is a result.

VFM Liu's visit also allows both sides to set the stage for Seattle where President Clinton will meet with Chinese President Jiang Zemin and you will meet with Vice Premier Qian. As the first meeting between American and Chinese Presidents since before the June 1989 Tiananmen Square incident, the Seattle bilateral presents the opportunity to make a departure from the troubled relationship of the past four years. Without sacrificing U.S. positions on human rights, nonproliferation, and trade, positive steps by both sides could help establish a new atmosphere of good will which would increase prospects for the success of our China policy.

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Real differences over human rights, trade, and nonproliferation continue to threaten this fragile relationship. While pleased with our initiative to improve relations, and desirous of improved relations themselves, the Chinese continue to resist taking the steps we are requesting. We need to convince them that without significant positive moves on their part in all three areas, relations will not improve and, indeed, will deteriorate. Essential in this regard are: progress in meeting the President's MFN human rights conditions; agreement to open discussions on lifting M-11 sanctions; and full implementation of our bilateral trade agreements.

Your meeting with Liu will follow his meetings with Under Secretary Tarnoff. The key message to convey is that serious efforts are urgently needed. Your approach should be to stress the principal issues requiring progress; to make clear that President Clinton's November 19 bilateral with President Jiang Zemin in Seattle is the perfect opportunity to make public dramatic evidence of progress in U.S.-China relations; and to foreshadow some positive steps we are willing to take in order to draw out similar Chinese gestures.

III. PARTICIPANTS

U.S.

The Secretary
Mr. Tarnoff
A/S Lord
A/S Shattuck
EAP/CM Director Keyser
(notetaker)
Ms. Vivian Chang
(interpreter)

China

Vice Foreign Minister Liu
Ambassador Li Daoyu
Ma Zhengang, MFA American Affairs
Director
Liu Xiaoming, MFA U.S. Division
Director
Mr. Jiang Jiang (interpreter)

Attachments:

- Tab 1 - Talking Points
- Tab 2 - Biographic Information

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Drafted: EAP/CM:ACarlson
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HA:Nely-Raphel
PM/PRO:VVan Diepen
T:JBarker

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--President Clinton made clear in his September 24 letter to your President that the U.S. wants to intensify the U.S.-China dialogue in order to resolve matters of mutual concern. As I said to Vice Premier Qian (CHEE-EN) in New York, our hope is that we can together move beyond our current difficulties toward cooperative, respectful, and mutually beneficial ties.

--It is with these goals in mind that we have undertaken recent high-level visits to China by Secretary Espy, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Barshefsky, Assistant Secretary Shattuck, and Assistant Secretary of Defense Freeman. I understand that all of these visitors have been well-received.

--In less than two weeks I will be meeting your Foreign Minister, and President Clinton will meet your President. I want to stress to you how important it is that those meetings, especially between the presidents, show the American people and the world that we have a new beginning in our relationship.

--Positive steps on both sides announced before and at the meetings could help establish an atmosphere of good will which would increase the prospects for improved U.S.-China relations.

--At the same time, I do not wish to minimize the differences that still exist between us. To achieve the goals we have for the relationship, Chinese progress is essential in the three main areas of our relations: human rights, nonproliferation, and trade.

--Under Secretary Tarnoff has indicated to you some possible goals we might achieve in Seattle. Let both sides come prepared to move our relations forward. A successful meeting between our political leaders will provide powerful forward momentum to the U.S.-China relationship.

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